

# AFRICA

THIRD EDITION

Maps and Charts by  
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Edited by  
Phyllis M. Martin  
*and*  
Patrick O'Meara

# AFRICA

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## PREFACE

Twenty years ago we started working with the faculty of the African Studies Program at Indiana University on the first edition of *Africa*. We had come to realize that in order to advance our understanding of the continent and its people, we had to work not only within our own disciplines but also through interdisciplinary perspectives. Interaction with undergraduates in an introductory course and discussions with colleagues at other colleges and universities were instrumental in developing the first edition of *Africa* in 1976. The second edition represented a mid-1980s approach and reflected changes in Africa as well as new scholarly perspectives.

Given the size and diversity of the continent, this book does not attempt to provide a detailed account of social, political, economic, and historical development for all of Africa. Rather, this overview addresses significant themes that relate to the continent as a whole, such as the development of early humans, social transformations, colonialism, and cultural innovation; or it deals with themes which, although primarily concerned with specific regions and peoples, have far-ranging impact, such as Islam in the northern third of the continent, dramatic changes in South Africa, relationships with international funding agencies, economic decline, and political instability.

All of our contributors have lived and worked in different parts of Africa, but they vary in their individual interpretations, insights, and disciplinary perspectives. Each chapter is enlivened and informed by the personal experiences, the academic training, and, at times, the ideological perspectives of the writer. Comparisons and linkages can also be made between chapters. Gender issues are raised at many points in the book, for example, in the contributions by Şaul, Robertson, and Manuh. There are obvious connections between the McCall, Jegede, and Stone essays which demonstrate the vitality of popular culture. The lasting impact of colonial domination is evident in the contributions of Gellar, Keller, Berry, Julien, and Stryker and Ndegwa. The history of conflict in southern Africa is a theme that appears in chapters by Keim, Lamphear and Falola, and Halisi and O'Meara. There are many other cross-cutting themes that will become evident to teachers and students as they use the book.

Over the past forty years since African Studies came into its own as an area of academic study, there have been dramatic changes on the continent and in the ways



undergraduate libraries are most likely to include in their collections, and the *National Newspaper Index*, which covers five U.S. newspapers with relatively extensive coverage of Africa. The African-focused journals among the 960 in the *Expanded Academic Index* are *Africa Report*, *Africa Today*, *African Affairs*, *African Arts*, *African Studies Review*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, and *Research in African Literatures*. In addition, there are other journals in this index which regularly include articles on Africa, such as *American Anthropologist* and *World Literature Today*. The five newspapers covered by the *National Newspaper Index*—the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*—are among the U.S. newspapers with the most extensive regular coverage of African news.

The files for the *Expanded Academic Index* begin in 1987, while those for the *National Newspaper Index* begin in 1982. Both are updated monthly. These indexes can be searched by author, title, keyword, and modified Library of Congress subject headings. The latter also are used in the print indexes, which must be used for materials published before the coverage of the CD ROM indexes: the *Humanities Index*, *Social Sciences Index*, and *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* (all produced by the H. W. Wilson Company, New York), which are available in most undergraduate libraries. A full-text version of the *Expanded Academic Index* became available in early 1995 which includes four hundred of the journals covered by the current CD ROM index. Among the African-focused journals listed above, only *Africa Report*, *Africa Today*, *African Affairs*, *Journal of African History*, and *Research in African Literatures* will be included in the full-text product.

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